UNITED
NATIONS

T

Trusteeship Council

Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.1281
21 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-ninth session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

# OUTLINE OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the secretariat

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## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS*

### INTRODUCTION

1. Until December 1990, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands consisted of four entities: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 683 (1990) (see para. 3 below), Palau is the only remaining entity of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands still under the Trusteeship Agreement. 1/

2. In a letter dated 7 December 1990 addressed to the President of the Security Council (T/1951), 2/ the President of the Trusteeship Council, on behalf of the members of the Trusteeship Council, transmitted a draft resolution entitled "Partial termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" and recommended that it be adopted by the Security Council.

3. At its 2972nd meeting, on 22 December 1990, the Security Council adopted, by 14 votes to 1, the draft resolution as its resolution 683 (1990). It reads, in part, as follows:

> "The Security Council,
>
> "...
>
> "Satisfied that the peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands have freely exercised their right to self-determination in approving their respective new status agreements in plebiscites observed by visiting missions of the Trusteeship Council and that, in addition to these plebiscites, the duly constituted legislatures of these entities have adopted resolutions approving the respective new status agreements, thereby freely expressing their wish to terminate the status of these entities as parts of the Trust Territory,
>
> "...
>
> "Determines, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement have been fully attained, and that the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement has terminated, with respect to those entities."

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* Unless otherwise noted, the information contained in the present report has been derived from the current annual report of the Administering Authority to the Trusteeship Council (see note 4) or from previous reports.

4. At its last session, the fifty-eighth, the Trusteeship Council noted the statement by the President of Palau on 3 May 1991 (see T/PV.1683) that the leadership of Palau continued to review possible options with respect to the resolution of Palau's future political status. In that regard, the Council welcomed the assurance of the Administering Authority in its annual report for 1989/90 on the Trust Territory that it was prepared to assist the Government of Palau, at its request, in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status of Palau, in accordance with the free choice of its people. 3/

5. In its current annual report, 4/ the Administering Authority expressed its assurances to the Trusteeship Council that it would continue to provide whatever assistance and counsel was necessary in order that the people of Palau might resolve their political status as expeditiously as possible.

## I. GENERAL

### A. Land and people

6. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau) is located in the Western Caroline Islands. It is composed of many islands, with a total land area of 492 square kilometres; the largest island is Babelthuap with a land area of 404 square kilometres. According to the annual report of the Administering Authority, the population of Palau in 1991 totalled 15,122. Two thirds of the total population live in the capital, which consists of the island of Koror and several adjacent islands connected to each other by causeways. Babelthuap is also connected to Koror by a causeway.

### B. War damage claims

7. War damage claims by the inhabitants of the Trust Territory fall into two broad categories: claims against the Governments of the United States of America and Japan, mainly for damages sustained by the indigenous inhabitants during the Second World War (Title I claims); and post-war claims against the Government of the United States (Title II claims).

8. The Micronesian Claims Commission, which was established in 1971 with authority to receive, examine, adjudicate and render decisions on war damage claims, completed its work in July 1976. All claims under Title II have already been settled. With regard to the claims under Title I, most final payments have been made, and the only ones remaining relate to awards which have been contested.

## II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

### A. General political structure

9. In May 1990, the Department of the Interior announced that it would open an office in Palau and review the administrative structure of the Administering Authority as it pertained to the Trust Territory. In September, the leadership of Palau and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior met in Guam to draft a new secretarial order defining the responsibilities of the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory.

10. Subsequently, on 15 October 1990, the Department of the Interior issued Secretary's Order No. 3142 which provided for the appointment of a Resident Representative of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior to carry out liaison between the Administering Authority and the Palau Government. In January 1991, this liaison office, headed by a Director, was established in the Trust Territory.

11. Palau is a member of the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It has observer status or membership in the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT).

### B. Territorial government

12. The Palau Constitution was adopted in 1980. The Constitution provides for three branches of government.

Executive

13. Executive power in Palau is vested in a President who is elected together with a Vice-President for a four-year term. A Council of Chiefs advises the President on matters concerning traditional laws and customs. Mr. Ngiratkel Etpison was elected President in November 1988.

Legislature

14. Legislative power in Palau is vested in the Olbiil Era Kelulau (National Congress of Palau), consisting of two essentially equal chambers - the Senate and the House of Delegates - whose members are elected for four-year terms. The Senate has the additional power of advice and consent. The third Olbiil Era Kelulau took office in January 1989.

15. There are 16 delegates, one from each of the states of Palau. The number of Senators may change every eight years when districts are reapportioned according to population. At present, there are 14 senators: 4 from the northern part of Palau, 9 from Koror and 1 from the southern islands. Members of the Olbiil Era Kelulau may be removed from office only by recall or impeachment.

16. The Constitution of Palau requires that a bill pass three separate readings in each chamber before it becomes law. If a bill passes its third reading in the originating house, it is transmitted to the other chamber of the Olbiil Era Kelulau where it undergoes essentially the same process. If amended and then passed by the other house, it is returned to the original house for acceptance or rejection of the changes. If the amendments are rejected, the presiding officers of each house appoint a conference committee, which attempts to reach agreement on the amendments. If the committee is able to reach agreement, its proposed changes are voted upon by each house.

17. A bill enacted by the Olbiil Era Kelulau is transmitted to the President who has 15 days within which to sign or veto the bill. All bills signed by the President as well as those allowed to become law without his signature are then transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Territorial Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior, to be reviewed for consistency with the applicable federal laws, the Trusteeship Agreement or treaties in force. The Assistant Secretary has 20 days in which to determine whether to allow the bill to become law or to suspend all or part of the legislation.

Judiciary

18. Judicial power in Palau is vested in a Supreme Court, a National Court and such lower courts of limited jurisdiction as may be established by law. The Supreme Court is composed of a chief justice, three associate justices and three part-time associate justices, all of whom are members of both the trial and the appellate divisions. Justices of the Palau Supreme Court are appointed by the President of Palau from a list of candidates recommended by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Matters before the Trial Division are heard by one justice, except for murder cases, in which the Trial Judge determines questions of fact and penalty, with the assistance of two lay "special judges" whom he selects from a list of persons appointed by the President for specified terms. Questions of law remain solely within the province of a trial judge. All appeals are heard by at least three judges. No justice may hear or decide an appeal of a matter heard by him in the Trial Division. The National Court consists of a presiding judge and such other judges provided for under the Palau Constitution. The Court of Common Pleas consists of a senior judge and an associate judge. The Land Claims Hearing Office, which is under the administration of the National Judiciary of Palau, has been hearing land disputes since 1987.

19. According to section 15 of Secretary's Order No. 3142:

> "The Appellate Division of the High Court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands shall have jurisdiction to review, by writ of certiorari, the final decisions of the highest court of Palau in which a decision may be had, that are rendered after 14 January 1988. The rulings of the courts of Palau shall be conclusive on questions of the local law of Palau, except in cases in which the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Government of the United States, its

subdivisions and agencies, or its military or civilian personnel are parties. Decisions of the High Court of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands shall be final, binding and enforceable according to their terms."

20. In 1991, the Vice-President of Palau was appointed Minister of Justice. In this capacity, he is in charge of the maintenance of domestic security and law enforcement.

21. The customary laws of the various parts of the Territory have the full force and effect of law, provided there is no conflict with statutory and other written laws specifically applicable in the Trust Territory.

### C. State or municipal governments

22. The 16 states were formerly clusters of loosely linked hamlets. Each state has an elected governor and legislature, as well as a constitution.

### D. Civil service

23. The Constitution of Palau provides for the appointment of national officers by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. During the period under review, the Government of Palau employed 1,589 persons, an increase from the previous year's level of 1,410.

### E. Political education

24. According to the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1992 (T/1964), most people of the Territory had an adequate understanding of the political issues facing Palau and of the implications of the Compact of Free Association for their future. The Mission concluded that the electorate had a high degree of political awareness and also noted that most Palauans were eager to see the question of their political status resolved as soon as possible.

## III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

### A. General

25. At its fifty-eighth session, the Trusteeship Council noted that the peoples of the Trust Territory, in the exercise of their right to self-government as set out in Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations, had elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields. 3/

26. At the same session, the Trusteeship Council also noted the concerns of the Government of Palau regarding economic development and self-sufficiency. It shared the view that continued efforts were needed in that regard and welcomed the recent improvements reported in the public health, tourism and fisheries sectors. 3/

27. While the 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission was in Palau, the Palauan leadership issued a statement in which, while recognizing the achievements of the Administering Authority in the political and educational fields, it expressed dissatisfaction with the level of economic development and social progress achieved in the Trust Territory.

28. Under the terms of Secretary's Order No. 3142, Palau is to develop, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a master national development plan which is expected to provide a framework for its future economic development.

## B. Public finance

29. During fiscal year 1990/91, the grant from the Administering Authority to the Trust Territory totalled approximately $34,809,000, of which $16,733,000 came from funds from the Department of the Interior, $12,102,000 from federal grants, and $5,974,000 from Capital Improvement Program funds.

30. During the period under review, local revenues amounted to $12,504,000, derived mainly from taxes and reimbursements for the use of public utilities. These revenues are controlled by the Palau legislature and appropriated to provide for its own support and for such legislative projects as may be authorized by law.

## C. International trade

31. The current annual report of the Administering Authority provides no figures for the value of exports. During the period under review, imports amounted to $24,563,000.

## D. Land

32. The 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau noted that the land issue continued to be one of the major problems facing the Government of Palau. Disputes over land ownership were also the cause of the majority of civil court cases. The Mission was informed that only 30 per cent of the country had been surveyed, and that out of the 20,000 parcels of land in Palau, only 5,000 had been adjudicated to date. The delay in the completion of the land survey process was attributed to insufficient funds.

## E. Agriculture and forestry

33. Subsistence farming is the main agricultural activity throughout the Trust Territory. Various regional and international organizations, notably UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and SPC, provide assistance on crop research, market development and livestock production.

34. In 1991, sales of vegetables, fruits, staple crops, eggs, meat and processed food in Palau amounted to $246,506.

35. The Palau Agriculture Revolving Fund, created by the Palau legislature, continued to provide farmers with small farm tools, machinery, seeds and supplies.

36. The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service made a grant of $16,500 to the Palau Forestry Program for fiscal year 1991. During the period under review, the forestry nursery which had been destroyed by typhoon "Mike" in November 1990 was rebuilt.

## F. Marine resources

37. In view of the fact that the fishing industry is currently the second largest source of income for Palau after tourism (see paras. 47-49), the 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission recommended that high priority be given to the further development of this industry.

38. Under an agreement with four fisheries associations of Japan, the Palau Maritime Authority allows up to 290 fishing vessels to fish in Palau's 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Palau also receives substantial sums from the Multilateral Fisheries Treaty with the United States (a fisheries treaty between the Government of the United States and several Governments of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, including Palau) and from the licence fees issued by Palau International Traders Incorporated, a locally registered corporation, to three foreign fishing fleets.

39. In 1991, the total value of the fish caught amounted to $683,323.

40. During the period under review, a number of foreign vessels were seized for illegal fishing and entry into Palau's exclusive economic zone, particularly around the Southwest Islands. With only one patrol boat to police its waters, Palau finds itself unable to enforce its environmental and conservation laws effectively. Of the 68 prisoners incarcerated in Palau in 1991, 49 were Indonesians imprisoned for poaching in Palauan waters.

## G. Industry, construction and public works

41. According to the current report of the Administering Authority, 315 new business permits were issued in 1991, bringing the total of private business establishments operating in Palau to 1,004. Of the 26 applications for foreign investors' business permits, the Foreign Investment Board of Palau approved 18 business applications; 8 are still pending because additional information is needed from the applicants.

42. In 1986, the International Power Systems Engineering Company (IPSECO) power plant at Aimeliik began operations, reaching 50 per cent of the population of the Trust Territory. During the period under review, it operated continuously without major problems. The Gorones International Construction Corporation's contract to operate the plant was terminated and the plant is currently run by the Government directly. Fuel for the plant is being supplied by the Shell and Mobil Oil Companies. The older power station located at Malakal harbour is being kept as a backup to the Aimeliik Power Plant.

43. The Palau Water Branch currently provides water to some 10,000 persons living within the service area of Koror, the capital, and nearby areas. Some 25 per cent of the system still operates on "water hours" of 16 hours per day, an improvement over the previous reporting period when 50 per cent of the system was on "water hours".

44. The daily amount of 11.3 million litres pumped remains insufficient to meet the water demand. The primary reasons for the shortfall are leakage, poor water conservation and misuse of water resources.

45. Under a grant of $4.7 million from the Department of the Interior, a rural water systems project for 19 villages was initiated in Palau in 1984. Since that date, nine of those systems, which include catchment tanks, deep-water wells and dams, have been constructed. The United States Congress approved an additional $2.5 million for fiscal year 1991 to construct three more systems, leaving seven still to be constructed.

46. Currently, Koror has the only sewerage system in Palau, serving 6,000 to 7,000 persons. During the period under review, a $1 million grant provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made it possible to install 450 house sewer connections. Under another EPA grant of approximately $500,000, the construction of rural sanitation facilities in some 500 outer island dwellings is under way.

## H. Tourism

47. Tourism currently provides the largest source of income for Palau and is the most promising sector of its economy. In 1991, approximately 32,700 visitors entered the Trust Territory. About 40 per cent of them came from Japan, 20 per cent from the United States and the remainder from Australia, the Philippines, other Asian countries and some European countries.

48. The Palau Visitors Authority (PVA), an institution established almost 10 years ago by the Government of Palau to attract more visitors, reported that a marked increase in funding, together with the creation of tourism committees in both the House and Senate of the Olbiil Era Kelulau, had enabled it to pursue its goals on a more competitive basis. The Authority had recently appointed representatives in Japan and North America whose chief responsibility is to promote Palau as a tourist destination.

49. Hotel and motel accommodations increased from 379 rooms in 1990 to 398 rooms in 1991.

### I. Transport and communications

50. Transportation between Koror and outlying states is mostly by boat. There were an estimated 154 outboard motor boats in Palau during the period under review. The Government of Palau also operates a marine patrol boat and a landing craft facility.

51. In 1991, there were 64 kilometres of paved roads and 3,589 registered motor vehicles. The 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau heard repeated complaints about the absence of a road linking the major population centres on the island of Babelthuap.

52. The Palau International Airport's runway was resurfaced during the period under review, thus permitting this facility to accommodate aircraft up to the size of a Boeing 707. Continental/Air Micronesia, the only international airline which serves Palau, has 13 regular weekly flights to the Philippines, Guam and Yap. As a result of increased demand for air cargo and tourism activities, this airline flew a total of 686 flights into Palau. There are also occasional charter flights from Japan by Japan Air Lines and All Nippon Airways. In addition, one local airline, Paradise Air, operates between Koror and the outlying states of Angaur and Peleliu.

53. Further, there were 1,705 telephones, 16 telex subscribers, 96 facsimile subscribers and approximately 1,200 television receivers.

## IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

### A. Human rights

54. The inhabitants of the Trust Territory are guaranteed, inter alia, the following basic human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in the Trust Territory Code and the constitutions of each of the national and state governments that make up the Trust Territory: freedom of religion, of speech and of the press; the right of assembly and the right to petition; no slavery or involuntary servitude; protection against unreasonable search or seizure; no deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of law; no discrimination against race, sex or language; writ of habeas corpus;

protection of trade and property rights; and due recognition of local customs. The right of petition is granted and the inhabitants of the Trust Territory have often petitioned the United Nations and the Administering Authority.

55. Women in the Trust Territory are equal to men under the law. Equal access to courts and equal rights to own property, to control earnings, to act as guardians, to engage in business, to hold public office and to vote are guaranteed by law. The strength of local custom, however, may influence the exercise of these rights to varying degrees.

## B. Medical and health services

56. In February 1991, a Ministry of Health was established as a separate entity. Within the Ministry of Health, Palau's health system is still centred around the 68-bed McDonald Memorial Hospital located on Koror. Apart from the inhabitants of Koror, the hospital is accessible by land to residents of five adjacent states on Babelthuap. A new hospital being constructed at a cost of $24 million is scheduled to open in December 1992.

57. Residents living outside commuting distance from the hospital rely for primary care on 13 dispensaries staffed by health assistants and they travel to the hospital for more sophisticated care. Travel time between most outlying areas and the hospital at Koror ranges from 30 minutes to two hours by boat or plane, depending not only on distance but also on the tides and the weather. The Southwest Islanders, numbering approximately 150 persons, usually have to wait for field-trip ships to travel to Koror for medical care. There is daily contact via short-wave radio to the communications centre and the hospital. Emergency evacuations for Southwest Islanders are made as necessary.

58. During the period under review, a total of 82 patients with more complicated illnesses were referred to facilities in Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii. The Government of Palau pays for approximately half the cost of medical care, while the patient is responsible for the other half plus the cost of transportation and off-island living expenses. No patient is refused medical referral, however, if unable to pay for his or her share of the expenses. During fiscal year 1991, the estimated cost of island referrals amounted to about $252,000 compared to $714,500 for the previous fiscal year. This reduction was attributable to the shift of patients to hospitals in the Philippines rather than in Guam and Hawaii or on the United States mainland.

59. According to the report of the 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, owing to a number of ongoing programmes, communicable diseases and some chronic diseases, such as hepatitis B and hypertension, which had been leading causes of death in the past, were on the decline, if not completely eradicated. However, gastro-enteritis and influenza continued to be a source of concern, and the Government was giving priority to a campaign of personal hygiene and sanitation to reduce the frequency of these diseases.

60. The Mission was also informed that 90 per cent of newborns were immunized against communicable diseases and that there were no recorded cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the Trust Territory.

61. The Mission expressed concern about the shortage of qualified doctors and nurses. These shortcomings reflect the more general problem that Palau's pay scales in the public sector are low by comparison with those in Guam and Hawaii and on the United States mainland. The current report of the Administering Authority states that the ratio of fully qualified medical doctors to population was 1 to 1,512.

62. According to the current report of the Administering Authority, during the period under review the quality of dental services was affected by the introduction of the Retirement Act, resulting in the retirement of all local dentists with the exception of one who was retained on special contract. To alleviate this shortage, three dentists were recruited from the United States. Nurses visit schools regularly to administer a fluoride mouth-rinse programme, conduct dental health education and make field trips to outlying states to provide dental care.

63. The Trust Territory is affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO), Western Pacific Region. This specialized agency and the health section of SPC provide technical assistance upon request. Palau has direct agreements with SPC, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and ESCAP.

### C. Community development

64. The Palau Bureau of Community Services provides youth development programmes, educates the public on the dangers of drugs and alcoholism, is responsible for identifying and protecting the cultural and historical heritage of Palau and serves as a focal point for women's interests.

65. The Palau Social Security System has now been in operation for four years. It covers all workers in Palau as well as Palauans working outside the Trust Territory. Contributions to the system in 1990/91 amounted to $1,569,982. Total disbursements in 1990/91 to 1,066 beneficiaries amounted to $1,585,241.

66. During the period under review, a 13-member United States Civic Action Team (nicknamed the "Seabees") implemented, at the request of the local government, a number of programmes including training of Palauans in various fields of activities, and building and repair of houses and infrastructural facilities. The team also provided, through its medical civic action programme, health education and technical medical assistance.

### D. Labour

67. In 1991, a total of 1,589 persons were employed by the Government of Palau, an increase of 179 from the previous year. A further 4,010, approximately half of whom were from the Philippines, were employed in the private sector. According to the current report of the Administering Authority, 16.4 per cent of the labour force was unemployed in 1991.

68. The Palau Civil Service Pension Plan and Retirement Fund legislation was enacted in April 1987 to provide annuities and benefits to government employees and to encourage qualified personnel to enter government service. Employees and the Government make matching contributions of 6 per cent of their salary to the Fund.

### E. Public safety

69. The Bureau of Public Safety is responsible for maintaining order and protecting life and property in Palau. In 1991, the Bureau had a staff of 70.

70. In 1991, a total of 334 major crimes were reported. There were 3 homicides, 39 aggravated assaults and 292 reported cases of theft with violence; 462 civil cases and 414 criminal cases were filed during the same year.

71. In recent years, Palau has pursued efforts to combat drug traffic and use by enforcing drug laws and providing neighbouring islands with information on drug smuggling in the region. In 1991, a total of $133,996 was allocated to the Palau Drug Free Education Programme. During the same year, there were three convictions related to the trafficking and consumption of hard drugs.

### F. Peace Corps

72. Peace Corps volunteers have been involved in Palau for over 25 years. Currently, there are six volunteers assigned to a Youth Programme Development Project in rural or outer island communities. Under a project initiated in 1987, all volunteers teach English as a second language in their respective communities. About eight new volunteers are scheduled to begin arriving in Palau in July 1992.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### A. Primary and secondary education

73. Education is compulsory in Palau for children from the age of 6 to 14. During the period under review, there were 22 public elementary schools in Palau. Elementary school enrolment totalled 2,289 pupils, of whom 229 were in the 2 private elementary schools. Most elementary schoolteachers were Palauans.

74. After eight years of compulsory elementary education, a student may enrol at a public high school or at one of the five private (church-affiliated) high schools. An estimated 95 per cent of students who complete elementary education go on to secondary education.

75. Each year, the Palau High School administers entrance tests in English, science, social studies and mathematics to determine whether a student is able to take the regular high school programme or must do remedial work. For 1990-1991, of the 273 students who took the entrance test, 60 per cent passed and were placed in the regular Palau High School programme. Of the 109 students who failed, 53 were placed in the high school preparatory programme and the remainder were absorbed by remedial programmes in one of the private high schools.

76. During the period under review, secondary school enrolment totalled 1,019 pupils, of whom 360 were enrolled in private institutions.

### B. Higher education

77. A large number of students who graduate from Palau's secondary schools go on to various colleges and universities abroad, mostly on the United States mainland, or in Hawaii, Guam, Japan and Australia. Financial assistance for those students comes from United States federal aid, Palau national scholarships and Pacific island student loans.

### C. Vocational training

78. In Palau, the main educational institution providing vocational training is the Micronesian Occupational College. According to the 1992 United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, the College currently has a staff of approximately 140. On average, about two thirds of the 350 students enrolled at the College come from outside Palau, mostly from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

79. The Micronesian Occupational College currently offers an Associate of Arts/Science degree. It also issues Certificates of Achievement for students who do not complete their degrees. The College has three major divisions: (a) general studies; (b) occupational education; and (c) trades and industries. Its departments offer one and/or two-year programmes in fields such as agricultural science, air conditioning and refrigeration, automotive mechanics and body repair, construction, carpentry, general electronics, clerical and secretarial work, tailoring and dress design, food services, heavy equipment and diesel mechanics, masonry, home economics and business education.

## D. Teacher training

80. Teacher training has been a priority for the education authorities in Palau. According to the current annual report of the Administering Authority, some 75 per cent of the teachers in both the elementary and secondary schools are now holders of bachelor's degrees and the remainder have at least associate degrees.

## E. Dissemination of information on the United Nations

81. At previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council, the Administering Authority stated that it was ready to cooperate fully with the United Nations in any effort to improve the quality of information provided on the Organization and to update the mailing and distribution lists inside the Trust Territory.

## Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

2/ Also issued as Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1990, document S/22008.

3/ Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Special Supplement No. 1 (S/23554), para. 111.

4/ 1991 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1 October 1990 to 30 September 1991, forty-fourth annual report to the United Nations on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, transmitted by the United States of America to the United Nations pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations (Department of the Interior).

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UNITED
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Trusteeship Council

Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.1282
28 May 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 5

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1992

China, France, Russian Federation and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

The Trusteeship Council,

Having examined at its fifty-ninth session the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1992 1/

Having heard the statements made by its members concerning the report, 2/

1. Approves the report of the Visiting Mission;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the work accomplished by the Visiting Mission on its behalf;

3. Decides that it will continue to take the recommendations, conclusions and observations of the Visiting Mission into account in future examination of matters relating to the Trust Territory;

4. Invites the Administering Authority to take into account the recommendations and conclusions of the Visiting Mission as well as the comments made thereon by the members of the Trusteeship Council.

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1/ T/1964.

2/ See T/PV.1691, 1692 and _____.

92-23006 4233Z (E) 280592

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Trusteeship Council

Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.1283
1 June 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 13

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

## Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1693rd meeting, on 28 May 1992, the Trusteeship Council appointed a drafting committee composed of the representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to prepare draft conclusions and recommendations of the Trusteeship Council at its fifty-ninth session to be included in its report to the Security Council.

2. The drafting committee held one meeting on 29 May, and decided to forward the draft conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex to the present report to the Council for its consideration.

Annex

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Political advancement

1. The Trusteeship Council takes note of its resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986, and of its subsequent reports to the Security Council.

2. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the adoption on 22 December 1990, by the Security Council, as proposed by all members of the Trusteeship Council, of resolution 683 (1990), in which the Security Council determined, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement a/ had been fully attained, and that the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement had terminated with respect to those entities. In the same resolution, the Security Council also expressed its hope that the people of Palau would be able in due course to complete the process of freely exercising their right to self-determination.

3. The Trusteeship Council notes the statement by the Minister of State of Palau on 26 May that the leadership of Palau desires an end to the trusteeship at an early date and, to that end, has decided on a further round of consultations with the Palauan electorate (T/PV.1691). The Trusteeship Council notes also that the Administering Authority, in its statements to the fifty-ninth session of the Council, has reiterated its firm support for an early resolution of the future political status of Palau.

4. The Trusteeship Council expresses the hope that the people of Palau will soon be able to complete the process of exercising freely their right to self-determination, and that it will be possible to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement in the very near future.

5. The Trusteeship Council expresses its appreciation for the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1992, contained in document T/1964, which it has approved in resolution 2195 (LIX) of 29 May 1992.

B. Economic, social and educational advancement

6. The Trusteeship Council notes that the people of the Trust Territory, in the exercise of their right to self-government as set out in Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations, have elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields.

7. The Trusteeship Council notes the concerns expressed by the Palauan leadership regarding the implementation of Secretary's Order 3142. It shares the view expressed by the United Nations Visiting Mission that there is a need for a continuing process of consultation and advice on how best to satisfy the procedures required under the Order. It is also hopeful that over time the need for the Order, or at any rate for the activation of its suspension provisions, will be diminished, and welcomes in this context the statement made by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior to the Trusteeship Council on 27 May (T/PV.1692).

8. The Trusteeship Council notes the concerns of the Government and people of Palau, as expressed to the United Nations Visiting Mission, regarding the level of economic development and social progress, and their desire for improvements in these areas. It shares the view of the United Nations Visiting Mission that continued efforts are needed in this regard, especially in the outlying states of Palau. At the same time, the Trusteeship Council welcomes the improvements reported in the tourism and fisheries sectors, while noting the problems of illegal fishing in Palauan waters and the need to ensure that the development of the tourist industry will take into account the importance of preserving the natural environment of Palau. It welcomes also improvements in the public health sector. It expresses the hope that further progress will continue to be made in these and other fields. It also notes the assurances by the Administering Authority that it will continue to do what it can to assist the people of the Territory to attain greater economic self-sufficiency through responsible economic development.

## C. General

9. The Trusteeship Council notes with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and under the Trusteeship Agreement.

10. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the continued assurances by the Administering Authority that the United States of America has no plans to establish military bases in Palau.

## Notes

a/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

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